

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 86-9

ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY NATURAL RESOURCE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND DEFINING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

WHEREAS, federal lands comprise about 44% of the land area of Arizona, and how those lands are managed affects the state's environment, and the economic and recreational opportunities of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the federal agencies responsible for these lands have in place elaborate processes for planning land improvements, and for assessing the environmental and other impacts of proposed actions; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations governing these planning and assessment processes, and in some cases federal statutes, offer special opportunities for the state to be consulted in the development of federal land and resource management plans, and the federal decisions regarding uses of these lands; and

WHEREAS, in order to make effective use of these opportunities for consultation and influence, there needs to be effective coordination of state agency participation; and

WHEREAS, there is a similar need to improve coordination of the activities of various state agencies that have significant impact on the state's environment and natural resource base, by giving interested state agencies a formal opportunity to evaluate and comment upon proposed actions by other state agencies that have a significant effect on the state's natural resources and environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Babbitt, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and Laws of this State, hereby order as follows:

1. There is created an Interagency Natural Resources Coordinating Committee (INRCC), composed of one or more representatives from the following state agencies and individuals as may be selected by the Governor:

- (a) Arizona State Parks Department or Board
- (b) Arizona State Land Department
- (c) Arizona State Game and Fish Department or Commission
- (d) Arizona State Department of Water Resources
- (e) Arizona State Department of Environmental Quality
(until July 1, 1987, the Department of Health Services)
- (f) Arizona State Department of Transportation or Board
- (g) Arizona State Department of Administration

Up to three other citizen members may be appointed by the Governor. The Chair of the Committee shall be selected by majority vote of members. The Attorney General is encouraged to provide assistance to the Committee on a continuing basis as to the requirements of relevant federal and state laws.

2. The Committee shall be responsible for coordinating the participation of agencies of state government in the land and resource planning and decisionmaking processes of the federal agencies that manage land in the state. To this end, the Committee shall:

- (a) Keep all state agencies whose activities are affected by the federal lands actions apprised of opportunities for state consultation and participation in federal decisions that relate to the use of federal lands in the state, including budgetary decisions;
- (b) Coordinate and direct the state agencies' comments and other attempts to influence federal decisions with respect to federal lands, resolving disagreements among state agencies where necessary so that, to the fullest extent possible, the state agencies arrive at a unified position on proposed federal actions;
- (c) Maintain lines of communication with appropriate officials in the federal agencies managing land in Arizona, to ensure that the state has as much influence as possible on the federal agencies' ultimate decisions; and

(d) Bring to the attention of the Governor, the legislature, state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and the public, those matters of federal land management and use that warrant involvement by any or all of these entities.

3. The Committee shall also be responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for consultation involving all pertinent state agencies whenever an agency proposes to take action that could have a significant effect on the natural resources and environment of the state. The Chair may also in their discretion, solicit comments from the public, using the procedures established under the State Administrative Procedures Act. The agency proposing the action shall carefully consider the comments and suggestions received as a result of the consultation process. Where agencies remain in serious disagreement as to the wisdom of the proposed action because of its impacts on natural resources and the environment, the Committee shall attempt to resolve the disagreement, and, where it cannot be resolved, the Chair shall bring it, together with their own recommendations for resolution, to the Governor's attention.

4. The Committee may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with federal agencies to facilitate better cooperation and communication regarding actions affecting natural resources or the environment.

5. The Order is not intended to limit the powers conferred upon departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of state or local government by existing state law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



Bert B. B. B.
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this sixth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Tenth.

ATTEST:

Rae M. [Signature]
Secretary of State